

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 05476 081720Z

62

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-02 OMB-01 IGA-01 AID-05 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01 /071 W

----- 039802

R 081703Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3747

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF EMBASSY'S DRUG PROGRAM

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

STATE 233134

1. SUMMARY: REVIEW OF OUR PROGRAM IN MOROCCO GIVES GROUNDS FOR CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM THAT PROGRESS WILL CONTINUE IN MOST AREAS OF NARCOTICS CONTROL. WHILE THE GOM STILL DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF AN INTERNAL DRUG PROBLEM, IT IS BECOMING MORE SENSITIVE TO ITS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE AS PRODUCER AND SUPPLY ROUTE OF KIF AND ITS BYPRODUCTS. OUR BEST NEAR-TERM RESULTS WILL PROBABLY BE ACHIEVED IN THE FIELD OF INTERDICTION OF EXPORT THROUGH BILATERAL ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MISSION DRUG PROGRAM IS DIVIDED INTO THREE BROAD CATEGORIES OF AIMS: (A) TO ASSIST THROUGH TRAINING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXPERTISE IN GOM DRUG ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL; (B) TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED ENFORCEMENT STRINGENCY; AND (C) TO IMPROVE LIAISON ON DRUG ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE MATTERS. I BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN ALL THREE AREAS.

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PAGE 02 RABAT 05476 081720Z

(A) TRAINING: WE CURRENTLY HAVE TWO WELL QUALIFIED MOROCCAN POLICE OFFICIALS ATTENDING THE DEA ADVANCE INTERNATIONAL DRUG SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON; TWO OTHERS ATTENDED EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE GOM IS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING AND EXPANDING ITS DRUG ENFORCEMENT CADRES AND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TRAINING PROGRAMS SUCH AS THIS WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS (E.E., LANGUAGE, PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE) IMPOSED BY ITS PERSONNEL SITUATION. IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT MORE SIGNIFICANT RESULTS COULD BE OBTAINED BY UTILIZING POTENTIAL DEA CAPABILITIES FOR TRAINING WITHIN MOROCCO. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY POSITIVE INFORMAL LOCAL REACTION TO THIS IDEA, AND ANTICIPATE A FAVORABLE RESPONSE WHEN THE IN-COUNTRY PROGRAM ACTUALLY BECOMES AVAILABLE HERE.

(B) ENFORCEMENT: WHILE MOROCCO DOES NOT YET ACKNOWLEDGE HAVING AN INTERNAL DRUG PROBLEM, THE GOM HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT ITS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE AS A SOURCE AND TRANSIT POINT OF KIF. IT IS, IN ADDITION, BECOMING AWARE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS BENEFITS TO BE GAINED FROM INTERDICTING MAJOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPMENTS OF DRUGS. MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES BELIEVE, AND I TEND TO AGREE, THAT THE RECENT RAISING OF DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES FROM THE LEVEL OF MISDEMEANOR TO THAT OF FELONY WILL BE BOTH A DETERRENT AND A USEFUL ENFORCEMENT TOOL.

(C) LIAISON: THIS AREA HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT WANTING IN THE PAST, IN MY VIEW. MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES HAVE STRESSED TO US THEIR NEED FOR TIMELY, FRESH NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE AND LIAISON FOR THEIR ENFORCEMENT EFFORT. WE WILL HOPEFULLY SOON BE ABLE TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE IN THIS REGARD, AS WELL AS BUILD UP FURTHER AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE, THROUGH THE PROPOSED REOPENING OF THE RABAT DEA DISTRICT OFFICE NOW UNDER DISCUSSION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES. BEYOND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, THE OFFICE WOULD PROVIDE A CONTINUING INFLUENCE TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT ACROSS THE BOARD AS WELL AS MORE EFFICIENT LIAISON ON THE TRAINING OF LOCAL OFFICIALS.

3. IN SUM, I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT U.S. AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 RABAT 05476 081720Z

MOROCCAN INTERESTS WITH RESPECT TO NARCOTICS CONTROL COINCIDE IN THE IMPORTANT AIM OF SEEKING TO REDUCE ORGANIZED ILLICIT EXPORT FROM MOROCCO OF KIF, MUCH OF WHICH IS DESTINED FOR A U.S. MARKET. I FORESEE A FAVORABLE IMPACT ON THIS OBJECTIVE RESULTING FROM FURTHER INCREASED STRINGENCY OF INTERNAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT. THE POST WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THIS TREND IN THE LOW-KEY MANNER WHICH WORKS BEST HERE AND I BELIEVE THE GOM WILL COME TO FACE THE

INTERNAL DRUG SITUATION MORE SQUARELY AS TIME GOES ON
MEANWHILE, OUR GREATEST NEAR-TERM PROGRESS CAN BE
EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO RESULT FROM EFFORTS IN THE FIELD
OF BILATERAL COOPERATION IN STEMMING EXPORT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RABAT05476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740322-0548
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741159/aaaabxtm.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 AUG 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVIEW OF EMBASSY'S DRUG PROGRAM FROM THE AMBASSADOR
TAGS: SNAR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005